UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Belmont
1 - Rosen
1 - Sullivan
1 - DeLoach

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: December 6, 1963

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach called at 1:30 p.m. He said in some manner the appointment of Olney had been blocked and former Solicitor General Lee Rankin was being considered for the position of Counsel for the President's Commission. He wanted to know what I thought of Rankin. I told him that Assistant Attorney General Miller had called and asked for a name check on Rankin, we are checking files and will furnish the results to the Department.

Mr. Katzenbach said that CIA and State Department had looked at our report and were satisfied and that Secret Service is coming over to look at it. Thereafter, he will call me so that we can have the benefit of any observations he has. I told him we are ready to come over at any time.

Mr. Katzenbach said he has been in touch with Sorensen at the White House with the thought in mind that rather than have the report go over to the President, the President could instruct the Department to deliver it to the President's Commission. This would keep it out of the White House until the Commission had gone over it. I made no comment as to this but did tell Katzenbach that we felt it was very undesirable for the Department to make any statement other than the fact it has transmitted the report to the President.

Katzenbach said that one other thing occurred to him in reading the report relative to the allegation that Oswald had shot at General Walker. If the Dallas Police knew about this prior to the assassination and had Oswald as a suspect in the Walker shooting it would place a different aspect on this case. I told Katzenbach that my recollection was that the Dallas police had the rifle slug but had no identity of the sniper and did not have Oswald as a suspect. We are checking this out to be sure.

Katzenbach asked if we would have additional copies of the report for the Commission. I told him we would have additional copies of the report but would wait until the Commission asked us for them.

AHB:hmm
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